THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allegation is that the distributor refused to release the connection to the prospective consumer because the latter was not purchasing the hot plate from the former.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) While LPG distributors are under instructions from the oil companies not to insist on purchase of hot plates by consumers from them, any complaints received are enquired into and appropriate action is taken.

Production of coal tar barrels by Balmer Lawrie and Company

1457. SHRI K. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the production of coal tar barrels by Balmer Lawrie and Company unit at Cochin oil refinery during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present there is no production of barrels by this company, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) in view of shortage of borrels by when production thereof is likely to be started; and

(d) by when it is proposed to lift coal tar from refinery for supply to the other parts of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Production of Coal Tar (Bitumen) drums by Balmer Lawrie and Co. Limited's Unit at Cochin Oil Refinery yearwise during the last three years is as under:—

1984-85	Nil
1985-86	1558
1986-87	Nil

(b) The arrangement between Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. and Cochin Refineries Ltd. having been terminated on March 31, 1986, there has been no production in the plant thereafter.

(c) There is no proposal to start production of barrels in this plant. The requirement of barrels is being met from elsewhere.

(d) The bitumen (Coal tar) being produced in the Cochin Refinery is lifted and supplied.

Laying of pipeline

1458. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gas pipeline being laid in the country passing through a long distance in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what is the likely share of gas of Madhya Pradesh for its commercial and industrial utilization;

(c) what is the total quantity of gas which would be pumped into this pipeline and in what manner proportion will it be distributed among the states through which the pipeline would pass; and

(d) whether Government propose to revise the quantity of gas in favour of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Initially about 15.0 million cubic metre per day (MMCMD) of gas will be transported through the